

## COUNTRY DATA: JAMAICA : Information from the CIA World Factbook

### INTRODUCTION

The island - discovered by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1494 - was settled by the Spanish early in the 16th century. The native Taino Indians, who had inhabited Jamaica for centuries, were gradually exterminated and replaced by African slaves. England seized the island in 1655 and established a plantation economy based on sugar, cocoa, and coffee. The abolition of slavery in 1834 freed a quarter million slaves, many of whom became small farmers. Jamaica gradually obtained increasing independence from Britain. In 1958 it joined other British Caribbean colonies in forming the Federation of the West Indies. Jamaica gained full independence when it withdrew from the Federation in 1962. Deteriorating economic conditions during the 1970s led to recurrent violence as rival gangs affiliated with the major political parties evolved into powerful organized crime networks involved in international drug smuggling and money laundering. Violent crime, drug trafficking, and poverty pose significant challenges to the government today. Nonetheless, many rural and resort areas remain relatively safe and contribute substantially to the economy.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Caribbean, island in the Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba
<b>Area</b>	total: 10,991 sq km land: 10,831 sq km water: 160 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	tropical; hot, humid; temperate interior
<b>Natural Resources</b>	bauxite, gypsum, limestone
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	9.4 cu km (2000)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	total: 0.41 cu km/yr (domestic 34%/ industrial 17%/ agricultural 49%) per capita: 155 cu m/yr (2000)
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	hurricanes (especially July to November)
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	heavy rates of deforestation; coastal waters polluted by industrial waste, sewage, and oil spills; damage to coral reefs; air pollution in Kingston results from vehicle emissions

### PEOPLE

<b>Population</b>	2,868,380 (July 2011 est.)
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	black 91.2%, mixed 6.2%, other or unknown 2.6% (2001 census)

<b>Religions</b>	Protestant 62.5% (Seventh-Day Adventist 10.8%, Pentecostal 9.5%, Other Church of God 8.3%, Baptist 7.2%, New Testament Church of God 6.3%, Church of God in Jamaica 4.8%, Church of God of Prophecy 4.3%, Anglican 3.6%, other Christian 7.7%), Roman Catholic 2.6%, other or unspecified 14.2%, none 20.9%, (2001 census)
<b>Languages</b>	English, English patois
<b>Literacy Rate</b>	definition: age 15 and over has ever attended school total population: 87.9% male: 84.1% female: 91.6% (2003 est.)
<b>Major Infectious Diseases</b>	HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate 1.7%; 3,200 people living with HIV/AIDS; 1,200 people died (2009 est.)
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
<b>Type</b>	constitutional parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm
<b>Independence</b>	6 August 1962 (from the UK)
<b>Constitution</b>	6 August 1962
<b>Legal System</b>	based on English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<b>Agricultural Products</b>	sugarcane, bananas, coffee, citrus, yams, ackees, vegetables; poultry, goats, milk; crustaceans, mollusks
<b>Industries</b>	tourism, bauxite/alumina, agro processing, light manufactures, rum, cement, metal, paper, chemical products, telecommunications
<b>Import commodities</b>	food and other consumer goods, industrial supplies, fuel, parts and accessories of capital goods, machinery and transport equipment, construction materials
<b>Import Partners</b>	US 28.32%, Trinidad and Tobago 22.98%, Venezuela 12.14%, China 4.61%, Brazil 4.18% (2009)
<b>Export Commodities</b>	alumina, bauxite, sugar, rum, coffee, yams, beverages, chemicals, wearing apparel, mineral fuels
<b>Export Partners</b>	US 38.19%, Canada 12.2%, UK 10.79%, Norway 4.89%, Netherlands 4.69% (2009)
<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	\$8,400 (2010 est.)
<b>Population below poverty line</b>	16.5% (2003 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	72.3
Average number of years in School (in years)	9.6
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	7,207
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	13.6
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	74.0
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	71.1
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	62.2
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	78.4
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	97
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	Less than 2
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	..
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	15

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	90
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	10
Population without Access to Water (%)	6
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	17
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	0.01
<b>Human Security</b>	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	800
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	...
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	5
<b>Demographics</b>	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	52.0
<b>Health</b>	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.9
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	1.7
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	1.6
<b>Other</b>	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	21.8
Population without Electricity (%)	7.4

